

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (presently amended) A method for enhancing compound/drug penetration into hair follicles on body areas of animals and humans, comprising the steps of:

- a'. a pretreatment step of removing hair from said hair follicles;
- a. ~~simultaneously~~ applying topically ~~said compound/drug and~~ a swellable composition to said body areas with stratum corneum;
- b. insuring entry of said swellable composition into said hair follicle lumen;
- c. preventing closure of said hair follicle lumen by volume swelling of said swellable composition in said lumen, wherein internal forces are generated by said swellable composition at said hair follicles during and after said volume swelling of said composition to open said hair follicle and prevent collapse of said follicle lumen; and
- d. applying a ~~said~~ compound/drug to said hair follicle area through said follicle lumen for increased application of said the compound/drug to said animals and humans.

Claim 2 (presently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said swellable composition includes a compound/drug and wherein thusly step d is effectively incorporated into step b.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (presently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling, in step c, enlarges a depth of an inner lumen space of said hair follicles for increasing a surface area for enhancing the absorption of said compound/drug into said body areas.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising another step after step c: occluding said hair follicles.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (presently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compounds/drugs are photosensitizer molecules, ~~their derivatives and their precursors~~ used in photodynamic therapy.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said swellable composition are polymers.

Claim 14 (previously amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are biodegradable.

Claim 15 (previously amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are biologically active.

Claim 16 (previously amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are encapsulated.

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (previously amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are encapsulated in liposomes.

Claim 19 (presently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling composition is covered during said volume swelling, in step c, and whereby thereby favoring horizontal swelling of said swelling composition is favored against over vertical swelling of said swelling composition out of said hair follicle.

Claim 20 (previously amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said swelling composition is covered by a cover selected from a group consisting of a plate, a film and a dressing.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 used to deliver a compound/drug to a patient's dermis and through their blood systemically, through a topical application of said compound/drug to body areas with stratum corneum.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, which is a pretreatment to a photodynamic therapy treatment which occurs away from said topical application site.

Claim 23 (previously presented) A method to achieve systemic introduction of compounds/drugs without using needles, needle patches, or oral means.

Claim 24 (presently amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said compounds/drugs useful for photodynamic therapy are selected from the group consisting of photosensitizer molecules and their precursors, ~~used in photodynamic therapy~~.